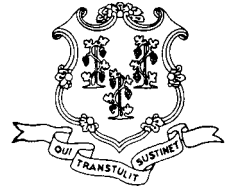




STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION OF STATE POLICE
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE



Arthur Spada
Commissioner of Public Safety

Colonel Timothy Barry
Deputy Commissioner, Division of State Police

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

2-4-04

State Police Arrest Individual for Insurance Fraud

In December of 2003, an individual reported to Meriden Police Department that his 1997 Lexus was stolen. Subsequent investigation by the Connecticut Regional Auto Theft Task Force resulted in information that the report was false, so that fraudulent insurance funds could be collected.

During investigative interviews with the vehicle owner, it was learned that the insurance scheme was orchestrated by **Joseph Lewis Jr**, a car salesman, working in the town of Shelton. Based on this information, Detectives obtained search warrants and an arrest warrant for the accused, **Lewis**, and he was arrested today at approximately 7:35am. He was released on a \$25,000 non-surety bond, and he is scheduled to appear at GA#5, in the town of Derby, on 2-13-04. National statistics show that one in four reports of all vehicle thefts are false, causing insurance premiums to increase, unnecessarily. The Connecticut State Police are asking that anyone who may have information relating to motor vehicle theft, insurance fraud or related crimes, contact the nearest Auto Theft Task Force and all information will remain confidential.

SUBJECT: JOSEPH LEWIS, JR DOB-1-22-52
 215 New London Turnpike
 Mystic, CT

CHARGES: 53A-215, INSURANCE FRAUD

###END###

TFC Karen O'Connor

Sgt. J. Paul Vance
Tfc. Roger Beaupre
Tfc. Karen O'Connor
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